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**Inventory for
Manuscript Collection
MS - 40**

Captain John C. Blanchard Papers

**1842-1910
Bulk: 1842-1863**

by
Elisabeth Meier
February 2019

1 box
0.4 linear feet
Accession no. 80.65

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Abstract

Blanchard, John C., Captain (1811-1887)

Papers, 1842-1910

Bulk dates: 1842-1863

1 box

Ship master and farmer from Searsport and East Corinth, Maine.

This collection contains accounts, bills, receipts, and other papers from the *Demarara* (brig), *John Carver* (bark), and *Bertha* (bark), which Captain John C. Blanchard sailed in the West Indies trade with occasional trips to New Orleans and Europe. It also contains some of Blanchard's personal accounts and a small group of papers from his son-in-law, George H. Smith, a farmer in Corinth, Maine.

Gift of Erminie S. Reynolds.

MS-040. Accession #80.65.

Finding aid (folder level control) in repository.

Added entries—persons:

Blanchard, Alfred (b. 1809)

Blanchard, John C., Captain (1811-1887)

Cushman, Hartwell

Smith, George H. (1839-1924)

Added entries—corporate bodies (including vessels):

Bertha (Bark : 1850)

Blanchard & Sherman (Boston, Mass.)

Demarara (Brig)

John Carver (Bark)

Added entries—key terms:

Accounts

Agriculture

Cotton trade

Ireland – emigration and immigration

Lumber trade

Mentally ill – commitment and detention

Merchant mariners – salaries, etc.

Salt trade

Ships – cabins

Ships – equipment and supplies

Shipowners

Sugar trade

West Indies trade

Acquisition

This collection was donated by Ermine S. Reynolds in 1980.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on this collection.

Physical Condition

The papers are in good condition, with expected wear and tear.

Processing Notes

These papers were roughly sorted when they arrived at the museum in 1971. Two paper sleeves that originally bound some of the documents are at the end of folder 13.

Historical Note

John Clifford Blanchard was born in Belfast, Maine in 1811, one of Shepard and Sarah (Clifford) Blanchard's ten children. His early career is obscure, but, by 1841, he was the captain of the brig *Only Son*. In 1842, he took command of a new Belfast-built brig, *Demarara*. The *Demarara* sailed in a variety of trades, carrying lumber, salt, coal, potatoes, coffee, and, presumably, sugar and cotton between New England, the Caribbean, New Orleans, and, occasionally, Europe. Blanchard and the *Demarara* gradually settled into a regular business with the New York brokers Buck & Peters, sailing between New York and Nuevitas, Cuba. He also made a trip to Galway in 1847 to carry Irish immigrants to Boston.

Blanchard apparently retired from the sea in the late 1840s and returned to Searsport, where he listed himself as a farmer in the 1850 census. The next year, he temporarily took command of the bark *John Carver*, built in Searsport and managed by Blanchard's brother, Alfred. He returned to the sea once again in 1855 to command the bark *Bertha*, another of Alfred's vessels, on a voyage to Liverpool and Venice. Blanchard also owned large shares in at least five other vessels during this period, all managed by Alfred's firm, Blanchard & Sherman, in Boston.

Ashore, Blanchard moved to East Corinth, Maine, in 1854, where he bought a farm and eventually settled down for good. He served as a representative to the state legislature in 1871 and was active in town government.

John C. Blanchard married Caroline Houston (1808-1889) in 1833. They had nine children. At least one of their daughters, Emma Caroline Blanchard (1841-1924), also settled in Corinth and married a neighboring farmer, George H. Smith (1829-1924).

Scope and Content Note

The bulk of this collection consists of accounts from Blanchard's time in command of the *Demarara* (brig), *John Carver* (bark), and *Bertha* (bark), which provide a detailed record of the vessels' activities in the West Indies, New Orleans, and transatlantic immigrant trades. The accounts include port expenses, vessel repairs, crew wages, freight lists, and bills for provisions, chandlery, and cabin furnishings in ports around the Atlantic world. There are also records of refitting the *Demarara* to carry immigrants from Galway to Boston during the Irish potato famine in 1847 and a contract in which Blanchard agreed to take one Charles Seward as an apprentice on a trial basis in 1843.

This collection also contains some records of Blanchard's personal finances. A number of these are his accounts with Blanchard, Sherman & Co., listing his dividends from his shares in vessels that they managed. There are also a few deeds, tax receipts, and other scattered documents from his life as a farmer. An 1845 bill for the ship *Adelaide*, a note from Alfred Blanchard inquiring after his cigar account with E. F. Bushnell in New York, and a promissory note from William Young of Searsport are here as well.

The collection also contains a few deeds, tax bills, and other documents from Blanchard's son-in-law, George H. Smith and his family. Smith was the legal guardian of Hartwell Cushman, another Corinth farmer who was admitted to the Eastern Maine Insane Hospital (Bangor State Hospital) in 1896. Some legal papers from that guardianship are also in this collection.

Box and Folder List

Box Folder

Series I: Captain John C. Blanchard

- | | | |
|---|----|--|
| 1 | 1 | <i>Only Son</i> (brig), accounts, 1841 |
| | 2 | <i>Demarara</i> (brig), account book, 1842-1848 |
| | 3 | Account book, inclusions |
| | 4 | Accounts, 1842: Belfast (ME) |
| | 5 | Accounts, January – March 1843: Havana, New Orleans, New York |
| | 6 | Accounts, April – July 1843: New Orleans, Baltimore, Trinidad, St. Thomas |
| | 7 | Accounts, August – December 1843: Baltimore, Boston, Bangor, Granada, Charleston |
| | 8 | Accounts, January – March 1844: Charleston, New York, Nuevitas |
| | 9 | Accounts, April – December 1844: New York, Nuevitas |
| | 10 | Accounts, 1845: New York, Baltimore, St. Barthélemy, Turks Islands, New York |
| | 11 | Accounts, 1846: New York, Matanzas, Nuevitas |
| | 12 | Accounts, 1847: New York, Galway, Boston |
| | 13 | Accounts, 1848 and undated: New York |
| | 14 | <i>John Carver</i> (bark), accounts, 1851: Boston, Matanzas, Demerara, Bangor, Curaçao |
| | 15 | Accounts, 1852 and undated: New Orleans, New York |
| | 16 | <i>Bertha</i> (brig), accounts, 1852-1855: Antwerp, Apalachicola, Liverpool, Venice |
| | 17 | John C. Blanchard, vessel ownership accounts, 1846-1861
<i>Bertha</i> (bark), <i>Demarara</i> (brig), <i>Fanny Buck</i> (bark), <i>James Park</i> (brig), <i>John Carver</i> (bark), <i>Manzoni</i> (brig), and <i>S. Thurston</i> (brig) |
| | 18 | John C. Blanchard, personal accounts, 1843-1863 |
| | 19 | Miscellaneous: <i>Adelaide</i> (ship), Alfred Blanchard, and William Young, 1845 |

Series II: George H. Smith

- | | | |
|---|----|--|
| 1 | 20 | George H. Smith, personal and family papers, 1860-1899 |
| | 21 | Hartwell Cushman papers, 1896-1910 |
| | 22 | Miscellaneous, 1898-1901 |